

OSTOMY COMFORT PAD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to ostomy appliances, also referred to as ostomy bags, and more particularly, an ostomy comfort pad which acts as a barrier to prevent 5 irritation caused by the appliance to the user.

People who wear ostomy appliances often encounter many problems, both physically and mentally, regarding usage of the device. One of the most common problems associated with wearing an ostomy appliance is that because the appliance itself is generally made of thin plastic, heat transfers from the higher temperature 10 excrement to the user's skin, thereby causing an uncomfortably warm sensation against the user's body. Additionally, the heat from the excrement causes the user's skin to sweat, thus causing moisture to come between the skin and the appliance. A further problem associated with wearing an ostomy appliance is when the appliance becomes full with liquid or excrement. When the user moves and the 15 appliance is full, the appliance sways, causing the user to become embarrassed and concerned as there is a danger that the clip on the bottom can become loose and spill the contents of the appliance.

Although there are many types of covers for ostomy appliances which help

to reduce the heat transfer, these appliances are unsanitary because they are not disposable. Additionally, these covers are often like drawstring appliances, producing bulges under the clothing so as to make the ostomy appliance visible to others. Furthermore, these covers are time consuming to remove and replace whenever a user needs to empty the appliance. As such, ostomy appliance users are left with the tough decision of choosing between the lesser of two embarrassments: either dealing with the uncomfortable feeling of warm bodily excrements against his or her skin or having a bulge located under the user's clothing, indicating to the public that the person is trying to hide something.

Thus, the present invention helps prevent the transfer of heat from excrements to the user's skin yet being lightweight, sanitary and not bulky.

The prior art includes the following United States patents:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Assignee</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
5,653,701	Millman	Desert Shield Trust	11-02-1995	08-05-1997
15 5,626,570	Gallo	N/A	06-11-1996	05-06-1997
5,026,362	Willett	N/A	06-01-1990	06-25-1991
2,205,270	Perry	N/A	03-20-1939	06-18-1940
US2002/0010445A1	Gunn	N/A	07-19-2001	01-24-2002
US2003/0105438A1	Hostetler	N/A	12-04-2002	06-05-2003
20 5,248,308	von Emster	N/A	06-29-1992	09-28-1993
5,607,412	Brown	N/A	06-06-1995	03-04-1997
US 6,186,989 B1	Horie	HorieKikaku Co., Ltd.	09-15-1998	02-13-2001

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that eliminates the transfer of heat from the excrement in the appliance to an ostomy appliance user's skin.

5 A further object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that is lightweight.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that is disposable.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that is not bulky.

10 An even further object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that attaches to an ostomy holding belt.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that eliminates appliance shifting when the user moves.

15 An even further object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that acts as a moisture barrier.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide an ostomy comfort pad that can be used on ostomy appliances of varying lengths.

The present invention fulfills the above and other objects by providing an

ostomy comfort pad that is worn between the ostomy appliance and a person's skin. The pad has an exterior surface preferably made of polypropylene with pine-fluff filling. A clip-holder pocket, sized slightly smaller than an ostomy appliance clip, is located at the bottom of the pad so as to hold the ostomy appliance clip, and thus 5 secure the ostomy appliance, in place when it is becoming full of liquids or when the user moves. Self-adhesive tabs or a hook and loop type fastener material are located at the top of the pad on the pad arms to secure the pad to a standard ostomy belt. The pad arms are of sufficient length to accommodate ostomy appliances of varying lengths.

10 The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 This invention is described by appended claims in relation to a description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is a frontal view of the ostomy comfort pad of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 3 is a frontal cutting view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** secured to a standard ostomy belt;

FIG. 4 is frontal view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** in use; and

5 **FIG. 5.** is a downward cross-sectional view along the lines 5-5 of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them 10 designate the same features throughout this description.

1.	ostomy comfort pad	10.	ostomy appliance collar
2.	fastener	11.	ostomy appliance tab
3.	arm	12.	ostomy appliance clip
4.	body section	13.	outer cover
15	5. clip-holder pocket	14.	top section
	6. socket	15.	bottom section
	7. ostomy belt	16.	front section
	8. filling	17.	back section
	9. ostomy appliance		

20 With reference to **FIGS. 1** through **4**, views of the present invention are shown. The ostomy comfort pad **1** has front section **16** and a back section **17**, each with a top section **14**, a body section **4** and a bottom section **15**. The body section

4 and the bottom section 15 are sized and shaped slightly larger than an ostomy appliance 9 while the top section 14 has two arms 3. A socket 6 is sized for the acceptance of an ostomy appliance collar 10 so as to surround the lower portion of the collar 10 when in use. The pad 1 has fasteners 2, preferably made of self-adhesive tabs or a hook-and-loop type material, located on the arms 3 of the front section of the pad 16 to secure the pad 1 to an ostomy belt 7. A clip-holder pocket 5 is located on the front section 16 of the pad at the bottom section 15 and is sized for the acceptance of an ostomy appliance clip 12 and ostomy appliance tab 11.

With reference to **FIG. 5**, a downward cross-sectional view along lines 5-5 of the embodiment of **FIG.1** is shown. A thin layer of filling 8, preferably made of pinewood fluff, located within the pad 1 absorbs the heat given off from excrements.

For an ostomy appliance user to use the ostomy comfort pad 1, the user first lifts the ostomy appliance 9 so as to expose the ostomy appliance collar 10. The user then takes the arms 3 of the pad 1, fastener 2 sides out, and places the arms 3 under the ostomy belt 7. The user then takes the pad 1, and lifts it so as to place the socket 6 of the pad 1 flush against the lower portion of the ostomy appliance collar 10. The user then secures the fasteners 2 to the belt 7 by either removing the self-adhesive covering and pressing down on the fastener 2 or by pressing down on the hook-and-loop type fastener. Finally, the user places the ostomy appliance clip 12 into the clip-holder pocket 5.

When the appliance 9 needs to be emptied, the user lifts the ostomy appliance clip 12 out of the pocket 5, lifts the ostomy clip tabs 11 and drains the appliance 9. The user now attaches a new ostomy comfort pad 1 to the ostomy belt 7 to promote

sanitary measures.

The use of the present invention will prevent ostomy appliance users from experiencing the uncomfortable feeling of having warm excrements against their skin without adding noticeable bulk under the user's clothing. Additionally, the use 5 of the present invention will promote more sanitary methods regarding ostomy appliance use.

It is to be understood that while a certain form of the invention is illustrated, it is not to be limited to the specific form or arrangement of parts herein described and shown. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may 10 be made without departing from the scope of the invention and the invention is not be considered limited to what is shown and described in the specification and drawings.